(b) and (c) At present 135 LPG distributors are operating in Bombay. Oil Companies will explore ways to readjust the area of gas dealers wherever feasible.

Route of the Oman-India gas pipeline

1395. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the route of the Oman-India gas pipeline has been changed;

(b) if so, what are the final financial and physical details of the project and how do these compare with the original one; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The route of the Oman-India gas pipeline will be finalised after the detailed survey of the ocean bed which is in progress. The Oman Oil Company has indicated in investment of USD 5 billion on the project. The first pipeline to carry 28.3 MMSCMD of gas is targetted to be commissioned by mid-1999.

Proposal to accelerate oil exploration programme

1396. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to accelerate oil exploration programme during the current plan period;

(b) if so, the initiative taken in that direction;

(c) whether any new strategy is proopsed to be adopted therefor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Government have approved an Accelerated Exploration Programme to be implemented during 1994—97 at an estimated cost of Rs. 6500 crores. Its major components are:—

(i) Exploration in the deep water areas.

(ii) National seismic programme.

(iii) Exploration in frontier areas.

(iv) Acquisition of acreages abroad

A part of this exploration effort is contemplated to be carried out through joint ventures between ONGC/OIL and private oil companies.

Import of aviation turbine fuel

1397. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of imported vis-a-vis indigenous Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) per kiloliter;

(b) whether Government are planning to stop the import of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF);

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) its impact on the operation cost of airlines operating in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT SATISH SHARMA): (a) The ceiling selling ex-storage point price of ATF is Rs. 9852.33/KL exclusive of Excise duties. The domestic prices of petroleum products are not always comparable with the international prices

(b) to (d) The import of ATF is permitted under Special Import Licence. The review of IMPORT EXPORT POLICY is an ongoing process.

Accelerated programme for oil exploration

1398. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest position about implementation of the Rs. 6500 crore Accelerated Programme for Oil Exploration (APEX) intended to make up for the petroleum exploration efforts;

(b) what are the achievements made under this programme, so far vis-a-vis the targets prescribed;

(c) whether the recent evaluation of APEX by the Planning Commission has shown considerable slippings in seismic survey planned for 1994-95; and

(d) if so, what are the results of evaluation and what remedial steps Government have taken or propose to take to adhere to the prescribed targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) The achievement under the various activities has been as below:

	Target	Achievement
2 D Seismic (SLK)	45,965	44,272
3 D Seismic (SSK)	19,032	21,123
Exploratory Drilling (000 metre)	560.79	491.65

Whereas the target for departmental work has been exceeded, there has been a slippage in the work done through contracts. Measures taken to expedite work include early finalisation of contracts, replacement of damaged charter hire rig, check-up/ overhaul of critical rig components, etc.

बिहार में अनधिकृत गस कनेक्शन

1399. **श्री आस मोहम्मद :** क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान बिहार में प्रत्येक वर्ष रसोई गैस के कितने अनधिकृत कनक्शनों का पता लगाया गया है;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने ऐसे अनधिकृत कनेक्शनों का नियमित कर दिया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा) : (क) बिहार राज्य में गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान अनधिकृत एल०पी०जी० कनैक्शनों के कथित मामलों के बारे में पता नहीं चला है ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

Letters from Members of Parliament

1400. CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 5742 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th May, 1994 and state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that replies to 1406 letters received in the Ministry from Members of Parliament in 1993-94 were not sent;